

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2020

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Committee Members Present

Jessa Barnard
Yacouba Jacob Bogre
Lisa Draper
Mike Fisher
Jordan Giaconia
Devon Green
Dale Hackett
Rebecca Heintz
Zachary Hozid
Gladys Konstantin
Joan Lavoie
Erin Maguire
Gustavo Mercado Muñiz
Kirsten Murphy
Jamie Rainville
John Schultz
Sarah Teel
Julie Tessler
Jason Williams

DVHA Staff Present

Amy Coonradt
Alicia Cooper
Zachary Goss
Cory Gustafson
Adaline Strumolo
Sandi Hoffman
Nissa James
Shannon Mead
Jessica Ploesser

Other Interested Parties

Sebastian Arduengo
Susan Aranoff
Daisy Berbeco
Kelly Barnier
Lucie Garand
Sarah Hahn-Du Pont
Bard Hill
Betty Morse
Sarah Peterson
Alexandra Sosnowski

*This meeting was held by conference call only.

Documents

- Advisory Committee 11_30_20 Agenda.pdf
- Advisory Committee PPT 11_30_2020.pdf
- [Vermont Medicaid Next Generation ACO Program 2019 Performance](#)

All are posted to the [Vermont Health Connect website](#).

Convene

Erin Maguire and Devon Green chaired the meeting.

Roll Call, Introductions and Quorum

Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager (DVHA)

A quorum was present.

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Approval of Minutes

Erin Maguire and Devon Green (Co-Chairs)

October 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Pronouns Matter – Creating an Inclusive Environment

Erin Maguire, Co-Chair, Director of Equity and Inclusion, Essex Westford School District

The Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee is introducing the optional use of pronouns for members and attendees. Reviewed the value and purpose of pronoun usage. Please view:

<https://www.glsen.org/activity/pronouns-guide-glsen> for more information.

Committee Discussion: [DVHA] Budget Priorities for State Fiscal Year 2022

Devon Green (Co-Chair)

Members suggested that Medicaid reimbursement rates should keep pace with inflation and advocated against budget cuts and for increases [to the Medicaid budget] not decreases. The Committee plans to review last year's budget priority letter submitted by the past Committee Chairs, update as needed (with specific focus reflected pandemic impacts) and will circulate to the Committee signatures.

2019 Results from the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation Program: (Medicaid component of the All-Payer Model Agreement)

Alicia Cooper, Director of Payment Reform, Reimbursement and Rate Setting (DVHA)

Please see: [2019 Results from the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation Program](#)

- Review “Key Takeaways” 2019 Results from the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation Program pg. 2
- Review 2019 VMNG Financial Performance relative to Expected Total Cost of Care pg. 3
 - Blue line = agreed upon total prices (including prospective and fee-for-service payments)
 - Gray box = fee-for-service paid above agreed upon price
 - Expected costs are impacted by the pandemic. DVHA is looking to Medicare to understand what CMS is proposing for their Accountable Care Organization (ACO) programs to determine how to adjust for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Review of providers receiving prospective payments vs. fee-for-service (FFS)
 - Prospective payments: Largely hospitals and some independent provider groups through Comprehensive Payment Reform (CPR). OneCare Vermont designed and implemented a program to transition independent primary care practices away from fee-for-service after a lot of program development.
 - Dual Medicare/Medicaid eligible members are attributed through the Medicare Program and not included in Medicaid expenditures [in chart on page 3].

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Commissioner's Update

Cory Gustafson, Commissioner (DVHA)

All Payer Model Update

The State of Vermont and DVHA are in the implementation phase of the All-Payer Model. The Model seeks to address two main problems: fee-for-service incentives and misalignment of payers and providers. DVHA now has three years of experience implementing the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation program (i.e., the Medicaid component of the All-Payer Model). The Model has been a provider-led approach to health care reform. To date, the All-Payer Model has been optional and there has been no provider mandate for participation.

Developments and Status

- CMS has reinforced its commitment to Value-Based Purchasing and Value-Based Care.
- Care coordination was initially through the Blueprint for Health; care coordination is now expanding and must be aligned in evolving expansion efforts.
- Vermont's commitment to moving its health care system towards value-based purchasing and value-based care prepares Vermont to be well-positioned, as evidenced by the impact of prospective payments during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Agency of Human Services has released an Implementation Improvement Plan that proposes changes to Vermont's All-Payer Accountable Care Organization (ACO) Model Agreement to increase participation in the Model and address identified issues to support the Model's future success.
- Vermont's All-Payer Model seeks to engage other payers in a health care system that incentivizes value, not volume.

State Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

- There is significant uncertainty for the state fiscal year 2022 budget; therefore, the current state revenue estimates may look different than they will in March of 2021.
- Medicaid enrollment is generally inverse to the state of the economy. That means that a weaker economy generally produces increased enrollment into Medicaid; this is important for the Legislature and Administration to consider as the state fiscal year 2022 budget is developed.

Sandi Hoffman, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)

Sandi Hoffman has been appointed to serve as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access after serving for approximately nine months as the interim Deputy Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner Hoffman has experience working for the Vermont Department of Corrections and Department for Children and Families before working at the Department of Vermont Health Access.

The Deputy Commissioner has begun to focus on:

- Promoting clinical alignment within DVHA;
- Ensuring coordination and collaboration with Agency departments;

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- Reducing administrative burden for providers;
- Using expertise in quality improvement to increase efficiencies; and
- Developing more efficient ways to perform record review using the Health Information Exchange (HIE).

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Next Meetings

January 25, 2021

February 22, 2021

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Site: Meetings will be convened through *Microsoft Teams* due to the State of Emergency produced by COVID-19 until further notice.

Please visit the Advisory Committee website for up-to-date information:

http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials

Additional Information:

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19>